Educational Council Meeting
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November 27, 1942
7:15 p.m.--9:30 p.m.

The meeting was held in the darkness since all of the lights in the center were out. The only light was afforded by three candles. The people present at the meeting were Mrs. Lucy W. Adams, Regional Director of Education and Recreation, Mrs. Miya Kikuchi, Mrs. Kisa Naito, and Miss Honey Toda.

The discussion under way was concerning the materials which were deemed necessary for the continuance of elementary schools under fair conditions. It was pointed out that the materials cannot be purchased privately. However, one way to get around that barrier is to buy materials through the co-operative. Orders cannot go through the War Production Board for materials. An order was sent to the Board, but it was canceled with instructions to eliminate something and to give more explanations for the various items desired.

It was disclosed that the plans for the Manzanar High School were accepted and the orders were placed. Some of the parts have arrived already. These parts include material for the roof and some things for the interior of the building. Mrs. Adams said that there wasn't too much chance of the real school opening next September.

One of the reasons why the materials did not come is that at the present, school facilities are available (or so it is reported); therefore, no more materials are forthcoming. Because of this, the partitions for the elementary schools cannot be purchased. One way to purchase the necessary materials is to buy so that the total amount will not exceed $200. It has been estimated that material enough for twelve partitions can be bought for under $200. This estimate has been made by Mr. Hervey Brown, Senior Engineer. Mrs. Adams said that the purchases of $200 can be made once per month. Since nineteen partitions are needed most urgently, the installation of the entire number is expected to be finished sometime near the end of the month of December.

In the same way, the shelving for the library will have to be installed. Only small amounts of materials not exceeding $200 per month will have to be purchased locally. The main problem is to find the materials locally.

It was dislosed that the lumber for the partitioning of the houses can be used for the school, but such usage will be up to the whole camp to decide since that move would affect the whole camp. Mrs. Adams expressed her personal opinion that the home should come first, but that was a problem which no administrator should decide. It was entirely up to the people to solve.

Mrs. Naito ventured that it looks as if the school needs the materials more than the homes.

Mrs. Adams declared that she will not ask for the materials because she did not want to precipitate another dog-fight in the Center. She announced that there is a supply of paper in the warehouse, but that there is a shortage of pencils. However, she pointed out that there was not enough of anything to really go around.

Mrs. Naito stated that the parents would like to know definite things. For instance, the parents would like to know whether or not to give their children useful things for Christmas such as pencils. In this way, the children might be supplied with materials not in stock.

Mrs. Adams disclosed that it was not the lack of money which hampered the purchasing of necessary materials. She stated that the system of bids and contracts was a slow process.

Regarding the partitions, Mrs. Naito brought forth the idea that doors will be necessitated so that pupils can go from one room to another. Since hinges for the doors are so scarce, Mrs. Naito wondered where they could be obtained.

Mrs. Adams said that the partitions will be made so that there will be a door in the side to enable the moving of the children from one section to the other. There will be either a door, a screen, or a movable partition.

Mrs. Kikuchi suggested that the usage of sliding doors might be a good idea since such a contraption would do without the hard to obtain hinges.

Mrs. Naito asked whether or not more stoves would be forthcoming. Mrs. Adams disclosed that 129 stoves were on their way to Manzanar; however, at the moment, there aren't any extra stoves.

At 7:40 p.m., the lights came on again.

Mrs. Naito declared that it would be heart-warming to the parents to learn of all of the things which transpired that night.

The discussion drifted around to Christmas time. According to Mr. Temple, Chief of Community Services, there will be a camp-wide celebration. In the elementary schools, the teachers will hold their own small parties if they so desire. Both the Elementary and Secondary schools will probably hold exercises of some sort.

The next topic of discussion was concerning the accomplishments. Dr. Carter, Superintendent of Education, was lauded very highly. Mrs. Adams said that she was dismayed that she could do so little, but that she was not discouraged.

In regard to the student teachers, Mrs. Adams said that some of the Japanese Americans are better than some of the Caucasian teachers here. She said that she was disturbed over the fact that the parents do not credit the Japanese American teachers for the fine jobs done by them. The student teachers are doing a good job in hadling their teaching work and in addition attending classes in the evenings. Mrs. Adams

expressed the hope that many of the student teachers would be able to go into the teaching field in California or any other place. One field which already open to the Japanese American teachers is the Indian Service.

Mrs. Adams said that one thing which is bothering her is the discipline problem. She stated that there should be some education for the parents as well as for the children. She said that many of the parents do not want to see the right side of problems and situations; they want to see the dark side only. This aids to disillusion the youngsters. Mrs. Adams stated that the clash between realism and idealism led to a lot of confusion also. She said that over sixteen students have been expelled and put to work.

It was disclosed that Mrs. Adams is to go to Washington to take charge of all relocation centers in the phases of education and recreation.

Coffee, cookies, cakes, and fruit were served and after social discussion, the meeting was closed.

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